IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1-18 and 21-47 and add new Claim 52 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A recording apparatus for recording an image on a recording medium on the basis of image data supplied from an image supply device, ~~characterized by~~ comprising:

reception means for receiving a layout command for arranging a plurality of images and information for designating the plurality of images to be arranged in accordance with the layout command from the image supply device;

setting means for setting ~~an overlay~~ either a first recording mode ~~of a~~ for recording the plurality of images by overlaying or a second recording mode for recording the plurality of images without overlaying in accordance with the characteristics of the plurality of images, in a case where the layout command is received from the image supply device by said reception means ~~depending on whether or not the image supply device sets a recording condition corresponding to a plurality of conditions required to overlay and record a plurality of images supplied from the image supply device~~; and

control means for, in a case where said setting means sets the ~~overlay~~ first recording mode of the plurality of images, controlling to overlay and record the plurality of images supplied from the image supply device.

2. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that:~~ wherein

in a case where ~~a recording start command supplied from the image supply device includes a layout command and~~ the plurality of images to be recorded have a plurality of image formats, said setting means sets the ~~overlay~~ first recording mode of a plurality of images included in the recording start command.

3. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that the plurality of conditions include conditions that a plurality of image formats are included, and~~ wherein said setting means sets the first recording mode, in a case where the plurality of images include at least one JPEG image[[,]] and a predetermined number of PNG images.

4. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim [[3]] 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the ~~plurality of conditions further include~~ layout command includes the number of records and/or the number of images to be recorded on a single recording medium as a condition.

5. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim [[3]] 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said control means overlays the plurality of images supplied from the image supply device in an order in which the images are received.

6. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the plurality of ~~image formats~~ images include at least one of an image format that designates an image which can be seen through, an image format that designates an image file stored at a specific storage location, an image format that designates an image file with a specific file name, an image format that designates an image file with specific tag information, and an image format that designates image files in a specific order.

7. (Currently Amended) An image supply device for supplying image data to ~~an image output device~~ printer, ~~characterized by~~ comprising:

setting means for setting either a first print mode for printing the plurality of images by overlaying or a second print mode for printing the plurality of images without overlaying the images;

command issuance means for issuing an image ~~output~~ print command including information for designating images to be printed and a layout command, wherein the layout command is common to the first and second print modes and the characteristics of the images to be printed are different from each other in accordance with the first or second print mode set by said setting means ~~set with an overlay recording mode of a plurality of images depending on whether or not the image output device has a plurality of functions corresponding to a plurality of conditions required to overlay and recording the plurality of images~~; and

means for supplying image data, which is requested from the ~~image output device~~ printer in response to the image ~~output~~ print command issued by said command issuance means, to the image output device.

8. (Currently Amended) An image supply device for supplying image data to an image output device, ~~characterized by~~ comprising:

first acquisition means for acquiring format information of image files that can be handled by the image output device;

second acquisition means for, in a case where the format information acquired by said first acquisition means includes predetermined format information, acquiring a layout function supported by the image output device;

setting means for, in a case where the layout function acquired by said second acquisition means satisfies a predetermined condition, setting a plurality of image data and a layout function to be supplied to the image output device;

command issuance means for issuing an image output command to the image output device on the basis of the plurality of image data and the layout function set by said setting means; and

means for supplying image data, which is requested from the image output device in response to the image output command issued by said command issuance means, to the image output device.

9. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 8, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the predetermined format information includes a JPEG format and a PNG format.

10. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 8, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the predetermined condition of the layout function includes a 1-up or N-up function.

11. (Currently Amended) A control method for a recording apparatus for recording an image on a recording medium on the basis of image data supplied from an image supply device, ~~characterized by~~ comprising:

a reception step of receiving a layout command for arranging a plurality of images and information for designating the plurality of images to be arranged in accordance with the layout command from the image supply device;

a setting step of setting ~~an overlay~~ either a first recording mode ~~of a~~ for recording the plurality of images by overlaying or a second recording mode for recording the plurality of images without overlaying in accordance with the characteristics of the plurality of images, in a case where the layout command is received from the image supply device in said reception step ~~depending on whether or not the image supply device sets recording conditions corresponding to a plurality of conditions required to overlay and record a plurality of images supplied from the image supply device~~; and

a control step of controlling, in a case where the ~~overlay~~ first recording mode of the plurality of images is set in said setting step, to overlay and record the plurality of images supplied from the image supply device.

12. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 11, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said setting step includes a step of setting, in a case where a recording start command supplied from the image supply device includes a layout command and a plurality of image formats, the ~~overlay~~ first recording mode of a plurality of images included in the recording start command.

13. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 11, ~~characterized in that the plurality of conditions include conditions that a plurality of image formats are included, and the plurality of images include~~ wherein said setting means sets the first recording mode in a case where the plurality of images include at least one JPEG image, and a predetermined number of PNG images.

14. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 13, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the ~~plurality of conditions further include~~ layout command includes the number of records and/or the number of images to be recorded on a single recording medium as a condition.

15. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 13, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said control step includes a step of overlaying the plurality of images supplied from the image supply device in an order in which the images are received.

16. (Currently Amended) A control method for an image supply device for supplying image data to an image output device, ~~characterized by~~ comprising:

a first acquisition step of acquiring format information of image files that can be handled by the image output device;

a second acquisition step of, in a case where the format information acquired in said first acquisition step includes predetermined format information, acquiring a layout function supported by the image output device;

a setting step of setting, in a case where the layout function acquired in said second acquisition step satisfies a predetermined condition, a plurality of image data and a layout function to be supplied to the image output device;

a command issuance step of issuing an image output command to the image output device on the basis of the plurality of image data and the layout function set in said setting step; and

a step of supplying image data, which is requested from the image output device in response to the image output command issued in said command issuance step, to the image output device.

17. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 16, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the predetermined format information includes a JPEG format and a PNG format.

18. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 16, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the predetermined condition of the layout function includes a 1-up or N-up function.

19. (Original) A program characterized by executing a control method of claim 11.

20. (Original) A program characterized by executing a control method of claim 16.

21. (Currently Amended) A recording apparatus for recording an image on a recording medium on the basis of image data supplied from an image supply device, ~~characterized by~~ comprising:

reception means for receiving a recording command with a hierarchical structure, which is transmitted from the image supply device;

first determination means for determining whether an upper layer of the recording command designates a first recording mode that records a plurality of images on a single recording medium;

second determination means for, in a case where said first determination means determines that the first recording mode is designated, determining a second recording mode designated by a lower layer of the upper layer; and

control means for controlling to execute, in a case where said second determination means cannot determine the second recording mode, a recording operation according to the first recording mode determined by said first determination means, and to execute, in a case where said second determination means can determine the second recording mode, a recording operation according to the second recording mode determined by said second determination means.

22. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 21, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the second recording mode is a mode for determining positions of a plurality of images to be recorded on the single recording medium in a recording process.

23. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 21, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the second recording mode is a mode for overlaying the other image on one image of a plurality of images to be recorded on the single recording medium in a recording process.

24. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 21, ~~characterized in that:~~ wherein

in a case where the second recording mode includes a recording mode based on composition of a background image, and an image to be overlaid on the background image, said apparatus further comprising:

specifying means for specifying the background image; and

variable magnification means for applying a variable magnification process of the background image specified by said specifying means in correspondence with the size of the recording medium.

25. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 24, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said specifying means identifies based on a storage location of an image file in the image supply device whether the image file is designated as the background image.

26. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 24, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said specifying means specifies based on a file name of an image file in the image supply device that an image in the image file is the background image.

27. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 24, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said specifying means specifies based on a file type of an image file in the image supply device that an image of the image file is the background image.

28. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 24, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said specifying means specifies based on tag information of an image file in the image supply device that an image of the image file is the background image.

29. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 24, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said specifying means specifies based on a transfer order of image files transferred from the image supply device that an image of the image file is the background image.

30. (Currently Amended) A recording system including an image supply device and a recording apparatus, and recording an image on a recording medium by the recording apparatus on the basis of image data supplied from the image supply device, ~~characterized in that:~~ wherein

the image supply device transmits a recording command with a hierarchical structure to the recording apparatus, and

the recording apparatus comprising:

reception means for receiving a recording command with a hierarchical structure, which was transmitted from the image supply device;

first determination means for determining whether an upper layer of the recording command designates a first recording mode that records a plurality of images on a single recording medium;

second determination means for, in a case where said first determination means determines that the first recording mode is designated, determining a second recording mode designated by a lower layer of the upper layer; and

control means for controlling to execute, in a case where said second determination means cannot determine the second recording mode, a recording operation according to the first recording mode determined by said first determination means, and to execute, in a case where said second determination means can determine the second recording mode, a recording operation according to the second recording mode determined by said second determination means.

31. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 30, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the second recording mode is a mode for determining positions of the plurality of images to be recorded on the single recording medium in a recording process.

32. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 30, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the second recording mode is a mode for overlaying the other image on one

image of the plurality of images to be recorded on the single recording medium in a recording process.

33. (Currently Amended) A control method in a recording system for recording an image on a recording medium by the recording apparatus on the basis of image data supplied from an image supply device, ~~characterized by~~ comprising:

a transmission step of transmitting a recording command with a hierarchical structure from the image supply device to the recording apparatus;

a first determination step of determining whether an upper layer of the recording command transmitted in the transmission step designates a first recording mode that records a plurality of images on a single recording medium;

a second determination step of determining, in a case where it is determined in said first determination step that the first recording mode is designated, a second recording mode designated by a lower layer of the upper layer; and

a step of executing, in a case where the second recording mode cannot be determined in said second determination step, a recording operation according to the first recording mode determined in said first determination step; and

a step of executing, in a case where the second recording mode can be determined in said second determination step, a recording operation according to the second recording mode determined in said second determination step.

34. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 33, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the second recording mode is a mode for determining positions of the plurality of images to be recorded on the single recording medium in a recording process.

35. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 33, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the second recording mode is a mode for overlaying an image on one image of the plurality of images to be recorded on the single recording medium in a recording process.

36. (Currently Amended) A program for executing a control method in a recording system for recording an image on a recording medium by the recording apparatus on the basis of image data supplied from an image supply device, ~~characterized by~~ comprising:

a transmission step module of transmitting a recording command with a hierarchical structure from the image supply device to a recording apparatus;

a first determination step module of determining whether an upper layer of the recording command transmitted in said transmission step designates a first recording mode that records a plurality of images on a single recording medium;

a second determination step module of determining, in a case where it is determined in said first determination step that the first recording mode is designated, a second recording mode designated by a lower layer of the upper layer; and

a step module of executing, in a case where the second recording mode cannot be determined in said second determination step, a recording operation according to the first recording mode determined in said first determination step; and

a step module of executing, in a case where the second recording mode can be determined in said second determination step, a recording operation according to the second recording mode determined in said second determination step.

37. (Currently Amended) A recording apparatus for recording an image on a recording medium based on image data supplied from an image supply device, ~~characterized by~~ comprising:

reception means for receiving a layout condition from the image supply device, wherein the layout condition specifies a layout of recording a plurality of items of image data on a recording medium, which are supplied from the image supply device; and

control means for controlling to record a plurality of items of image data supplied from the image supply device by overlapping or not overlapping in accordance with the layout condition, based on formats of the items of image data.

38. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 37, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said control means controls to record an image whose format designates an image to be seen through, by overlapping with another image.

39. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 37, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said control means controls to record an image by overlapping with another image, in a case where a type of the image is different from a type of another image.

40. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 37, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein any one of the formats includes JPEG or other than JPEG.

41. (Currently Amended) A recording apparatus for recording an image on a recording medium based on image data supplied from an image supply device, ~~characterized by~~ comprising:

reception means for receiving a layout command for specifying a layout of recording a plurality of images on a recording medium and designation data for designating a plurality of images to be recorded, from the image supply device; and

control means for controlling to record a specific image by overlapping with another image, in a case where images designated by the designation data include the specific image.

42. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 41, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the specific image is an image to be seen through.

43. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 41, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the specific image has a predetermined format of image other than JPEG.

44. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 41, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the specific image has a predetermined file name or arranged in a predetermined ~~holder~~ folder.

45. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 41, ~~characterized by~~ further comprising set means for setting an order of overlapping images in accordance with an order of designation of images among the images designated by the designation data.

46. (Currently Amended) A recording method of recording an image on a recording medium based on image data supplied from an image supply device, ~~characterized by~~ comprising the steps of:

receiving a layout condition from the image supply device, wherein the layout condition specifies a layout of recording a plurality of items of image data on a recording medium, which are supplied from the image supply device; and

controlling to record a plurality of items of image data supplied from the image supply device by overlapping or not overlapping in accordance with the layout condition, based on formats of the items of image data.

47. (Currently Amended) A recording method of recording an image on a recording medium based on image data supplied from an image supply device, ~~characterized by~~ comprising the steps of:

receiving a layout command for specifying a layout of recording a plurality of images on a recording medium and designation data for designating a plurality of images to be recorded, from the image supply device; and

controlling to record a specific image by overlapping with another image, in a case where images designated by the designation data include the specific image.

48. (Original) A computer readable recording medium characterized by storing a program of implementing a recording method according to claim 46.

49. (Original) A computer readable recording medium characterized by storing a program of implementing a recording method according to claim 47.

50. (Original) A program characterized by implementing a recording method according to claim 46.

51. (Original) A program characterized by implementing a recording method according to claim 47.

52. (New) A method for supplying image data from an image supply device to a printer, comprising:

a setting step of setting either a first print mode for printing the plurality of images by overlaying or a second print mode for printing the plurality of images without overlaying the images;

a command issuance step of issuing an image print command including information for designating images to be printed and a layout command, wherein the layout command is common to the first and second print modes and the characteristics of the images to be printed are different from each other in accordance with the first or second print mode set by said setting means; and

a step of supplying image data, which is requested from the printer in response to the image print command issued in said command issuance step, to the image output device.